



**DRAFT**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)**  
**South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)**  
**Radisson Parkway Resort Hotel**  
**2900 Parkway Boulevard**  
**Kissimmee, Florida**  
**Thursday, May 6, 2004**

Attendees:

Members:

Ernie Barnett  
Scott Benyon  
Al Calloway  
Walter Carson  
Joe Collins  
Michael Collins  
Harry Cronin  
Wayne Daltry

Dennis Duke  
Brig Garg  
Beverly Grady  
Richard Harvey  
Patrick Hayes  
James Humble  
Mark Kraus  
John Lamkin

Frank Marsocci  
Barbara Miedema  
Charles Pattison  
Terrence "Rock" Salt  
Jora Young  
Joe Walsh

Alternates:

John Adornato  
Thomas Bausch  
Gary Davis

Daniel Hayes  
Gail Powers  
Jim Reynolds

Ray Scott  
Craig Tepper  
Samantha Whitcraft

Henry Dean, Executive Director, SFWMD and Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources, SFWMD.

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda: Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Collins.

Chair Collins announced and welcomed new WRAC members, Samantha Whitcraft, Alternate for John Lamkin; and Frank Marsocci, WRAC member for LOBOS.

*Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission of the South Florida Water Management District determined that good cause existed to make the following changes.*

Change in the agenda. Presentation on the Lake Toho Drawdown Status by Shawn Sculley will move from agenda Item 8 to agenda to Item 4.

2. New/Old Business Discussion by Chairman. Chair Collins asked for member input.

➤ Member Issues:

Walter Carson spoke regarding read-ahead material that is sent by staff to WRAC members and alternates. He does not have a computer with the appropriate software to allow him to download the files. He asked for software to be provided to WRAC members by SFWMD. Chairman Collins stated that this matter will be investigated to see if that would be possible. He would like to provide assistance to Mr. Carson if it is feasible.

Wayne Daltry announced that Howard Wegis could not attend due to business commitments. Lake Okeechobee management and deviation of the WSE scheduled was a topic Mr. Daltry brought up. He thanked the District for the help regarding Lake Okeechobee. He asked for information for Lee County to express their appreciation. He thanked Henry Dean for the miracle of the Babcock Ranch acquisition. Regarding the Rule for Reservations and he and Lee County would like more information. Ernie Barnett (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) provided information on the legislation action occurring. Lee County would like to know how to help and Mr. Daltry was informed that they should contact Janet Llewellyn or Ernie Barnett.

Gary Davis asked if the SFWMD was going to intervene on this issue. Mr. Dean responded and said the District will weigh in on this matter.

Jora Young, The Nature Conservancy, congratulated the District and Henry Dean on the Talisman land acquisition issue. Chairman Collins acknowledged Malcolm "Bubba" Wade (U. S. Sugar Corp.) for his commitment and leadership in finding a way to go forward on this matter and he said the sugar industry did not have to do what they did, they did it because they are committed to CERP. It is not a small thing they did, and they deserve recognition. Henry Dean spoke on this issues and he concurred with Chairman Collins' comments. The Talisman land is in three parcels and he provided the District's proposal on the future projects for the property.

Patrick Hayes thanked Chairman Collins and Rick Smith for the tour of Lake Toho provided to WRAC members on May 5, 2004. It was excellent.

John Adornato asked for a briefing on the Talisman acquisition. Chairman Collins said in June there will be a report for members. Mr. Adornato expressed his thanks for the meeting Minutes being furnished to members. He requested an addition to the Minutes of April 8, 2004 to reflect that concerns were expressed regarding the Upper East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan as it related to the environmental water supply. John Mulliken has added an extra week for comments on the Plan.

Joe Walsh spoke regarding membership on the SFWMD Recreational Advisory Committee and said the meetings will be held the same as in the past for WRAC Issues Workshops on Recreational Activities. Chairman Collins asked Joe Walsh to look into

an article by SAFER that was critical of the Recreational Policies. Rock Salt said there was an article in the Miami Herald. Mr. Walsh will report back to the WRAC.

Richard Harvey spoke on the Talisman property and STAs. Mr. Dean spoke of Federal credit and the future possibilities for the property.

Brig Garg also thanked staff for the tour of Lake Toho held on May 5. He enjoyed it very much.

Rock Salt commented on Federal funds for STAs on the Talisman property. The proper use for those lands was discussed. Chairman Collins said the Federal government was a partner with SFWMD in the acquisition. Dennis Duke provided information on the Department of Interior's position.

Ray Scott spoke on WRDA requirements for reservations and the implications of the disagreements. He would like to hear the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' perspective on this matter. Chairman Collins said this is a sensitive issue and there are good things happening in that debate. Federal/State partnerships were discussed. Mr. Duke said the partners are in total agreement on water quality issues. Chairman Collins provided information regarding the prior meetings held between the Federal government, State government and other agencies, including NOAA. Mr. Salt provided information on the documents the groups are taking up on policy will be laid out. Barbara Miedema asked if there would be an extension on comments regarding the Scoping Letter and Mr. Duke said they will extend the deadline.

- CERP Program Requirements Issues Workshop Update by Rick Smith.

May 17, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at District Headquarters there will be a meeting on CERP Program Requirements and a detailed presentation will be provided.

- ASR Update by John Mulliken, Acting Director, Water Supply Dept., SFWMD.

Mr. Mulliken presented information on the implementation strategy. Addressing uncertainties for the ASR pilot projects and the ASR regional study was provided. The recent activities were reviewed and Mr. Mulliken asked for comments from the WRAC members are sent to him as soon as possible.

Further information provided by Richard Harvey and Dennis Duke on this issue.

Presentation continued with information on the regional study.

Questions on permits and where the sites will be located, contingency plan, and scheduling, were asked and answered.

- Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Plan – Update.

Chairman Collins provided information on the long term management of the Upper Chain of Lakes. Several WRAC Issues Workshops have been held and a review will be done to ensure the Plan is consistent with the 10 Year Master Plan. Budget impacts and how this plan will impact the Strategic Plan must be included in the review. A process will be devised to review this as soon as possible. Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director for Water Resources, SFWMD, provided information on long term development.

3. Kissimmee Restoration Status by Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources, SFWMD.

Mr. Merriman presented information on the initial response to restored flow for the Kissimmee restoration.

Three of four performance measures of littoral plant communities have been achieved under the interim regulation schedule. Native wetland vegetation has been restored over approximately 11,000 acres of floodplain wetlands.

Question and answer session. Mr. Duke provided additional answers to a question on completion dates. Information on the Kissimmee Roundup at the Lockett Estate scheduled for May 7, 2004 was provided. Compliments were made on the progress the Corps and the District have made on the restoration.

4. Lake Toho Drawdown Status, Shawn Sculley, Dept. Director, Watershed Mgt. Dept., SFWMD.

The presentation included information on the system-wide success of the drawdown. Lake Tohopekaliga habitat enhancement project is on schedule. Favorable snail kite habitat preserved in Lake Kissimmee; flows to Kissimmee River maintained, extending string of consecutive months to 34; more than extra drawdown water diverted from Lake Okeechobee and the water level in Lake O will likely reach desired state of 13.5' this month. There were no damaging releases made to the estuaries during the drawdown.

This has been a tremendous success. General discussion on the issues that made this drawdown successful and the issues that were obstacles.

5. Kissimmee Basin Regional Water Supply Plan Update - Status Chris Sweazy, Lead Planner, Water Supply Dept., SFWMD.

Information on the four planning regions (Kissimmee Basin, Upper East Coast, Lower East Coast, and Lower West Coast) was provided.

The presentation showed what will occur in the 20 year planning process and what had occurred in the previous planning process. The WRAC serves as an overall forum for public input and there have been workshops held in each region.

The planning horizon from 2000 – 2025 was reviewed. To date, four public workshops have been held. The preliminary issues, preliminary source options and ongoing efforts were explained.

The next steps are to present status update to the Governing Board this summer; continue public workshops; identify water source options; develop recommendations; complete draft of the plan to WRAC and Governing Board; request FDEP review; and present the final Plan to the Governing Board in 2025.

Chairman Collins commented on the difficulty of the plan.

Announcement:

Chairman Collins announced a change to the Agenda. Item 9 will be deferred until next month - presentation by Gary Goforth on *Stormwater Treatment Areas – Status*.

6. Southern Indian Prairie Basin Draft Operations Plan Update Chris Sweazy, Lead Planner, Water Supply Dept., SFWMD

The Indian Prairie Basin is an agricultural area in Glades and Highlands Counties. Lake Istokpoga is the primary supply and pumps were installed for Lake Okeechobee deliveries in the 1990's.

The reasons for the operations were listed as water shortages in the 1980s; limitation on new surface water use; address susceptibility to water shortages and to lift water use restrictions; and identify operational changes in canal structures and facilities to draws water from Lake Okeechobee and make improvements in Lake Istokpoga. Information on the Plan's development efforts was reviewed. Both the general operations and the operational controls were presented.

The next steps are to distribute draft plan; discuss at future workshops the water supply plan and the rule development.

Question and answer session. Questions on Fisheating Creek, pumping, water storage, etc. were thoroughly reviewed.

7. Southern Indian Prairie Basin Rule Development, John Mulliken, Acting Director, Water Supply Dept., SFWMD.

Mr. Mulliken presented information on the Rule Development: Consumptive Use Permitting in the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin.

Policy issues included the fact that this is a closed basin and no new permits or pumps will be done. Major changes to the system have addressed historic problems.

Proposed changes are to divide basin into upper and lower reaches; remove the restrictions for new permits. The issues to be worked through the Rule development process were presented. Policy issues – directions portion of water supply from Lake Istokpoga to consumptive uses as opposed to Kissimmee River; and equitable distribution of water during times of drought.

The current status:

- Governing Board authorized rule development in March 2004.
- Staff preparing information and documentation;
- First public workshop will be June 2004 at 10 a.m. in Okeechobee.

Announcement:

Chairman Collins will not be attending the next WRAC meeting as he will be out of town. Another SFWMD Governing Board member will be acting as Chairman.

Henry Dean announced that the District's 10 Year Strategic Plan will be presented to the Governing Board in May 2004. He complimented District staff for preparing the concise and easy to read budget for each of the ten programs at the District.

Kissimmee Roundup is on Friday, May 7, 2004 and Mr. Dean provided information on the day's activities.

Adjournment at 10:45 a.m.

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Michael Collins, Chairman  
Water Resources Advisory Commission

Recorded By:

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Paula Moree  
Staff Business Operations Analyst

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